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KETTERING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953



Rural District of Kettering

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough, Rothwell, and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES R. STARMER, M.R.SAN.I. M.S.I.A.

(Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other foods.)

FRANKLIN H. VALENTINE, M.R.SAN.I.

(Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other foods.)

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING,

July, 1954.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kettering Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. George, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Rural District for 1953.

Among the eight deaths in infants under one year, six were neonatal deaths occurring within the first month after birth. All the neonatal deaths were due to congenital abnormality, prematurity or birth injury and these deaths are from factors similar to those causing still births.

Since 1949 58 houses have been demolished or closed and all the tenants have been rehoused. This wise policy of the Council has reduced considerably the worst slum properties in the District. 519 houses have been completed since the end of the war, this has relieved the overcrowding caused by young married couples who have been living with their parents or in rooms, and except in a few of the larger villages, there does not appear to be the same urgent need for new houses as pertained several years ago.

When the North-West Regional Scheme of the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board is completed, every village in the Rural Area will be supplied with a piped water supply and then proper drainage and sewerage facilities can be obtained for all the villages.

Sections C, D and E of the Report have been prepared by your Sanitary Surveyor.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and also to my colleagues for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Area (acres)	61,680	61,680	61,680	60,768	60,768
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	11,980	11,980	12,190	11,940	12,050
Number of Live Births	216	206	188	194	205
Legitimate	209	193	179	186	192
Illegitimate	7	13	9	8	13
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	18.03	17.19	15.42	16.25	17.01
Number of Still Births	4	2	5	1	8
Legitimate	4	2	5	1	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	18.18	9.61	25.91	5.13	37.56
Rate per 1,000 population	0.33	0.16	0.41	0.08	0.66
Number of Deaths	112	153	158	130	123
Death-rate per 1,000 population ...	9.34	12.77	12.96	10.89	10.21
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.51	33.98	31.91	30.93	39.02
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	19.41	15.95	20.62	29.27
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	3	3	4	—	1
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3	4	—	1
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	23	30	21	22	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough all (ages)	—	—	—	1	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	1	—	—	—

*Registrar-General's Figures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1953

	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 live Births																
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year																
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.35	11.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.55	1.1	26.8																
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	17.0	0.43	12.2	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.24	0.15	0.00	0.01	0.59	1.3	30.8																
160 Smaller Towns estd. resident populations, 25,000 — 50,000 ...	15.7	0.34	11.3	—	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.17	0.00	0.01	0.52	0.9	24.3																
London ...	17.5	0.38	12.5	—	0.00	—	0.24	0.15	—	0.01	0.64	1.1	24.8																
Kettering Rural District ...	20.24	0.66	10.01	—	—	—	0.08	0.08	—	—	0.25	—	39.02																
<p>The Maternal Mortality rates for :</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.10</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.01</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.24</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.13</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.04</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.06</td> <td style="width: 11%;">0.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kettering Rural District ...</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td> </tr> </table>														England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	0.10	0.01	0.24	0.13	0.04	0.06	0.18	Kettering Rural District ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	0.10	0.01	0.24	0.13	0.04	0.06	0.18																						
Kettering Rural District ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—																						

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	60,768
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	12,050
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	3,890
Rateable Value	£73,313
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£273

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows : Farming, iron-stone quarrying, and manufacture of iron and steel, steel tubes and clothing manufacture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	192	107	85
Illegitimate	13	9	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	205	116	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 17.01

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	8	6	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 37.56

DEATHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	123	78	45

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (crude) 10.21

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected) 10.01

Death-rate from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... —

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 39.02

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 36.46

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 76.92

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) —

Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age) —

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms 17.00

Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis —

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1953 was 0.98. The crude death-rate per 1,000 population for 1953 was 10.21 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.98, supplied by the Registrar General, gives a corrected death-rate of 10.01. This death-rate of 10.01 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Kettering Rural District were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

Births.—The following table shows the birth-rate for 1953 together with the rate for England and Wales.

Live Birth Rates, 1953

A comparability factor has been issued for 1953 by the Registrar General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Kettering Rural District and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Kettering Rural District	...	...	17.01
Kettering Rural District			
corrected by comparability factor	1.19		20.24
England and Wales	...	...	15.5

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1953

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

Kettering Rural District	...	...	39.02
England and Wales	...	...	26.8

Neonatal Mortality Rates, 1953

Neonatal Mortality is the number of deaths in children under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births.

Neonatal Death Rate	29.27
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The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause</i>
2 hours	M.	Anencephaly
15 hours	M.	Prematurity. Natural Pre-eclamptic Toxaemia.
22 hours	F.	Microcephalus and Meningoceles. (Congenital Abnormalities)
1 day	M.	Atelectasis and Prematurity.
2 days	M.	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
2 days	M.	Prematurity.
3 months	M.	Late effects of Haemolytic Disease of the newborn. Certified by Coroner after Post Mortem without Inquest.
7 months	M.	Death from scalds accidentally received due to the bursting of a hot water bottle. Inquest.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	78	45	123
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	3	—	3
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus ...	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	—	—
14. Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	3	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	10	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	11	4	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	1	3
20. Other heart disease	7	8	15
21. Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	3	—	3
24. Bronchitis	9	5	14
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer and stomach duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	1	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	3	—	3
35. Suicide	—	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton and the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital. The following specimens were examined :—

Throat	...	...	...	...	...	2
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	12
C.S.F.	...	...	...	...	...	1
						15
						15

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The County Council is responsible for Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for Non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The County Council is responsible for the Home Nursing Service.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held monthly in the Parishes of Broughton, Geddington, Gretton and Weldon. A Medical Officer attends each session.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised in 1953 is as follows :—

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	126
5 to 14 years of age	...	...	...	5
			Total	131
Boosters	...	...	...	120

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1953 is as follows :—

Age at 31.12.53	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in the year	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Number immunised	8	111	110	134	138

Age at 31.12.53	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1944 - 48	1939 - 43	under 15
Number immunised	735	658	1894

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	Total
Whooping cough only ...	—	10	—	10
*Combined Diphtheria/ Pertussis	27	44	—	71

*The combined Diphtheria/Pertussis figures are included in the figures for Diphtheria Immunisation.

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year 1953 :—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary	40	3	5	8	56
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	9	9

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47. No formal action had to be taken during the year.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—The whole of the Rural District is within the area administered by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, and the Rural District Council now has no statutory duties as a water undertaking for the provision of public water supplies.

During the year the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board completed the installation of public mains to the village of Braybrooke, one of the villages in the North-West Area of the Council's district, which had always been looked upon as one of the worst villages from a water supply point of view, prior to the advent of the water mains. The installation of this scheme forms the first part of the Water Board's North-West Regional Scheme which will ultimately take mains water supplies to the parishes of :—

Brampton Ash ; Dingley ; Sutton Bassett ; Weston-by-Welland ; Ashley ; Stoke Albany ; Wilbarston ; East Carlton ; Middleton and Cottingham.

These villages all lie within a part of Northamptonshire which has proved itself to be the "driest" area in the County, in so-far as any local underground sources of water supply are concerned.

The Council have been assured by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board that this North-West Regional Scheme will be completed in the very near future.

The following table headed "Water Supplies", gives detailed information concerning the water supply circumstances in each of the 30 parishes comprising the Rural District.

Twenty-one of these parishes are now provided with mains water supplies which have been satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year. The Water Board carry out regular bacterio-

logical and chemical samplings of the various supplies under their control. None of the water supplies in the District is liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The total number of dwellings in the District is 3,890, and of these 2,970 are supplied with piped water, from either public mains or private water undertakings.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Estimated Population :	Total No. of Houses in Parish	No of Houses obtaining water from piped supplies	No. of Houses obtaining water from private and public wells	Remarks
Ashley	176	58	7	51	Private Wells
Brampton Ash	125	51	19	32	do.
Braybrooke ...	280	90	50	40	*
Broughton ...	1569	497	436	61	Public Mains
Cottingham ...	652	220	135	85	*
Cranford ...	488	165	153	12	Private and Public Wells
Cransley ...	325	114	80	34	*
Dingley	137	28	14	14	Private Wells
East Carlton ...	224	70	67	3	Private Estate Supply
Geddington ...	1220	427	350	77	*
Grafton Underwood	310	105	98	7	*
Gretton	1080	286	243	43	*
Harrington ...	150	51	42	9	*
Loddington ...	324	117	68	49	*
Middleton ...	336	90	24	66	Private and Public Wells
Newton	100	34	34	—	*
Oakley	394	85	63	22	*
Orton	63	19	15	4	*
Pytchley	514	166	165	1	*
Rockingham ...	170	57	57	—	Private Estate Supply
Rushton	393	136	93	43	do.
Stanion	323	110	76	34	*
Stoke Albany	270	90	67	23	Private and Public Wells
Sutton Bassett	70	26	5	21	do.
Thorpe Malsor	121	44	44	—	*
Warkton	166	54	54	—	Private Estate Supply
Weekley	210	61	61	—	do.
Weldon	1656	434	402	32	*
Weston-by-Welland ...	126	42	10	32	Private and Public Wells
Wilbarston ...	496	163	38	125	do.

TOTALS 12,468 3,890 2,970 920

*Public Piped Supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Since the end of the war the Rural District Council has provided comprehensive sewerage schemes with modern sewage disposal plants in the villages of Gretton, Weldon and Geddington ; the last named scheme having been completed in 1953. In addition new modern disposal works were provided for the village of Broughton to replace the existing obsolete disposal works.

In the three villages of Gretton, Geddington and Weldon, the work of connecting properties to the new sewers has progressed very satisfactorily, with a result that in these villages the old bucket closets have almost disappeared. In the majority of cases the connection of premises to the new sewerage schemes entails the complete re-drainage of the properties, and the provision of new sanitary accommodation. It has been most encouraging to find that the majority of owners have welcomed the opportunity of connecting their properties to the new main drainage schemes, and have readily carried out the necessary work of re-drainage.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government granted approval to two additional sewerage schemes ; at Rushton and Grafton Underwood. In the case of the scheme at Rushton approval has been given in the first instance to part of the main scheme to the village, in order to provide satisfactory drainage for the new housing site being developed by the Council on the Desborough Road, at Rushton. The sewers to be laid at this stage will afford drainage facilities for a small number only of the existing properties in the village, and it is hoped that, before this present contract is completed, the Ministry will allow the Council to carry out the remainder of the scheme, in order that the whole village can be properly drained, since this would prove to be more economical than having to return to the village sometime after this present contract is finished.

With regard to the scheme for the village of Grafton Underwood, the provision for proper drainage in this village will, it is hoped, completely alter the nature of the stream which flows alongside the roadway throughout the length of the village. Hitherto this stream has received all the foul drainage from the properties in the village, and has in fact been nothing more than an open sewer, which has constantly been a menace to public health. By the removal of all foul effluents from the stream, it is hoped that once again it will become an amenity to the village instead of being the nuisance it is in its present form.

The Council has also submitted other schemes to the Ministry for the villages of Rockingham, Braybrooke and Loddington, and it is hoped that during 1954, permission will be given to proceed with one or more of these additional schemes.

The new sewage disposal works at each of the villages of Broughton, Gretton, Weldon and Geddington are functioning very satisfactorily, and producing excellent effluents. The only difficulty, which is

common to all these works, is the ultimate disposal of dry sludge, as the farmers in this area, for some reason or other, do not appear to attach such importance to the manurial value of sludge, as is the case in some other areas.

Refuse and Nightsoil Collections.—The Council undertake the collection of household refuse throughout the whole of the district. This work is carried out by two collecting teams each comprised of three men using covered refuse collecting vehicles, and is at the present time carried out on a fortnightly schedule throughout each parish. Despite labour difficulties from time to time, the service has been maintained throughout the year in a satisfactory manner.

All refuse collected in the district is disposed of by tipping into disused quarries, all of which are in remote situations. These refuse tips were kept under constant observation during the year, and effective measures of rodent control are continually carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator.

The weekly collection of night-soil from all the premises in the District provided with pail-closets, numbering about 780, is carried out by private contractors for the Council. As properties are connected to new sewerage schemes and the sanitary accommodation is converted to water-closets, the number of pail-closets in the district is fortunately decreasing. The work of collection was carried out satisfactorily during the year.

Rodent Control.—The year of 1953 was the first full year of working of the Council's Rodent Operator. This operator investigated all complaints of rat infestation, in addition to carrying out routine inspections at regular intervals of refuse tips, sewage works, and sewers.

The following table gives the summary of the work carried out by the operator for the year :—

Type of Premises	No. of Premises visited	Degree of Infestation			Treatments		Estimated No. of Vermin destroyed
		Heavy 50-100	Med. 12-50	Small 1-12	Visits	Treatments	
Dwelling Houses - -	1189	5	57	1038	4375	1100	3741
Council's Refuse, Tips, Sewage Works, etc. - - -	73	2	22	49	297	73	302
Business Premises -	3	—	1	1	10	2	15
Agricultural Premises -	2	1	1	—	11	2	231

Moveable Dwellings.—Eight applications to station and use moveable dwellings within the district were made, and the appropriate licenses were granted by the Council. In addition two other caravans were stationed on sites which were considered to be unsatisfactory. One caravan was removed after informal action being taken, and in the case of the second caravan its removal was imminent at the end of the year.

Twenty-nine visits of inspection were made during the year to these caravans, when they were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Verminous Premises.—The following infestations were discovered during the year and effective remedial action was taken in each case, by the use of appropriate insecticidal spraying.

- 2 Flea Infestation
- 2 Cluster Fly Infestation
- 2 Cockroach Infestations

Disinfections.—Thirty-two visits were made to premises where cases of infectious disease had occurred. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in twenty cases of infectious disease.

Factories and Workshops.—The following table shows the number of factories in the district, the number of inspections made, and contraventions discovered and remedied during the year.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	21	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	32	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). ...	9	17	3	—
TOTAL	66	70	8	—

2. **Cases in which defects were found** :—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature S.3.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) :					
(a) insufficient	4	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	—	—

SECTION D.

Housing.—Work was continued on the Council's post-war housing scheme and at the end of the year building had progressed as shown below :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Construction</i>	<i>Completed in 1953</i>
Ashley ...	5	2	3	—
Brampton Ash	—	—	—	—
Braybrooke ...	14	14	—	4
Broughton ...	74	64	10	10
Cottingham/ Middleton ...	70	66	4	16
Cranford ...	22	22	—	6
Cransley ...	20	17	3	3
Dingley ...	4	4	—	—
East Carlton ...	2	2	—	—
Geddington ...	83	76	7	18
Grafton Underwood ...	—	—	—	—
Gretton ...	56	48	8	4
Harrington ...	8	8	—	—
Loddington ...	23	23	—	3
Newton ...	—	—	—	—
Oakley ...	—	—	—	—
Orton ...	2	2	—	—
Pytchley ...	43	29	14	5
Rockingham ...	6	6	—	—
Rushton ...	18	10	8	—
Stanion ...	26	22	4	6
Stoke Albany ...	6	6	—	2
Sutton Bassett ...	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Malsor	10	8	2	2
Warkton ...	—	—	—	—
Weekley ...	—	—	—	—
Weldon ...	75	68	7	14
Weston-by- Welland ...	6	2	4	—
Wilbarston ...	20	20	—	2
TOTALS	593	519	74	95

During the year 1953 a further 95 Council houses were completed, bringing the total number of post-war Council houses constructed to 519. Having regard to the resources of the Rural District Council, it will be seen that the housing problem is still being energetically dealt with and in some parishes the immediate post-war needs have already been met. The problem still, however, remains in some of the larger parishes, and the continuance of building houses in these parishes will be necessary.

In addition to the Council houses built during the year, 18 private houses were erected and a further 17 were in the course of construction at the end of the year.

The rehousing of families from converted huts at Grafton Underwood Aerodrome, which was taken over by the Council for temporary housing purposes, is still a matter of great urgency. At the beginning of 1953 thirty-one families were on the site, and during the course of the year eight families were rehoused, leaving a total of 23 families in the converted huts. Owing to the deteriorated condition of the huts, they are demolished immediately the families are rehoused, to prevent re-occupation.

Public Health and Housing Acts.—Work under these Acts for the purpose of rectifying defects and abating nuisances has been continued throughout the year and the following tables give details of the routine work carried out :—

1.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—	
(1)	(a) No. of houses inspected for defects	103
	(b) Inspections made for the purpose	241
(2)	(a) No. of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	18
	(b) Inspections made for the purpose	54
(3)	No. of houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation	18
(4)	Dwellings houses (exclusive of those under preceding head) not in all respects reasonably fit for inhabitation	64
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—	
	No. of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	64
3.	Action under Statutory Powers :—	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	No. of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit by owners or the Local Authority after service of formal notice	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving notices	—

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	18
(2) No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	3
(3) No. of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11, and still in force	...	...	15

A summary of sanitary defects remedied during the year is as follows :—

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	142
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	13
Inspection Chambers repaired	...	...	51
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	171
Vent and Soil Pipes repaired	...	...	61
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	1
Pail Closets converted to W.C.s	...	...	270
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	47
Septic Tanks and Cesspools repaired	...	...	19
Wells and Pumps repaired	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	21
Rain-water guttering repaired	...	...	13
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...	27
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	27
Doors repaired	...	...	17
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	...	33
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	18
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	2
Permanent ventilation provided	...	...	17
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	7
Stairs repaired	...	...	11
Ventilation to pantries provided	...	...	9
Paving repaired or relaid	...	...	7
Washing Coppers repaired	...	...	18
Sinks provided	...	...	63
Internal water service provided	...	...	81
Dustbins provided	...	...	40

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—The Council's duties with regard to milk supplies are now mainly restricted to the question of milk distribution and supervision of retailers of milk.

The following table gives the summary of the licenses and registrations granted by the Council during the year :—

Registered Distributors of Milk	...	...	...	...	5
Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Pasteurised Dealers	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Tuberculin Tested Dealers	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Pasteurised Milk within the Rural District					8
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk within the Rural District	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Sterilized Milk within the Rural District	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies granted supplementary licences to retail Accredited Milk within the Rural District					1

All the dairies in the district have been inspected at regular intervals and have been found to be kept satisfactorily.

Meat Supply.—As in previous years since the commencement of meat rationing, the Ministry of Food have been responsible for all slaughtering of animals for human consumption. No such slaughtering has taken place within the Rural District.

The Council have licensed 20 persons under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, for the purpose of slaughtering animals. The majority of these persons are licensed to enable them to slaughter cottager's pigs, a great number of which are kept throughout the district.

Visits of inspection were made to the six butchers' shops which exist in the district, and these were all found to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

Registration of Food Preparing Premises.—The registration of premises for the manufacture or sale of ice cream, or for the manufacture of preserved foods under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, proceeded during the year. Frequent visits were made to such premises, and all were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. The total number now registered is as follows :—

Storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream	...	...	...	...	40
The manufacture of sausage or potted or preserved food	...	...	...	...	5

Bakehouses.—Nine bakehouses are in use in the district, in eight of which mechanical power is used. The necessary whitewashing of the premises was carried out as required.

Fried Fish Shops.—During the year only two fried fish shops were in use in the district, one at Cottingham and one at Gretton. These premises were visited during the year and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

There were 177 notifications received during the year of which 145 were due to Measles. The epidemic occurred mainly in the villages of Broughton, 55 cases and Grafton Underwood, 20 cases.

All the children were nursed at home and all recovered.

Acute Primary Pneumonia.—Eleven cases were notified. One male aged 72 years was removed to Hospital and subsequently died.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Two cases of Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis were received. One case was removed to Hospital. Both cases were found subsequently not to be suffering from Poliomyelitis.

One child aged 20 months, from the district was notified to Kettering Borough. This child was removed to the Isolation Hospital and developed paralysis of both lower limbs.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1953.

Eight cases of Respiratory and two cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Two of the Respiratory cases were patients who already suffered from Tuberculosis and removed into the Rural District during the year.

There were two deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis during the year.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1953 was as follows :—

RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			<i>Grand Total</i>
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
21	20	41	5	9	14	55

During the year two cases of Respiratory and two cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis left the Rural District for other districts and one case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was removed from the Register as cured.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1953

Diseases	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Measles ...	7	17	19	12	30	52	1	3	3	—	1	—	145	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	2	3	11	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	—	3	5	2	1	2	—	—	—	15	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	7	19	20	12	33	61	6	4	8	—	4	3	177	4	1	—

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1953

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	6	5	16	7	11	21	62	14	2	1	—	—	145
Pneumonia	1	1	2	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	11
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	2	1	4	1	—	2	1	1	1	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	7	6	20	13	12	25	65	15	7	4	2	1	177

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1953

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	1
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	1	—	—
25—	1	1	—	—
35—	1	—	—	1
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	2	—	2

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1953

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	*1	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	—	—

*One patient died in Hospital in Kettering Borough and the death has been notified as occurring in the Borough.

